

Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1-44 (Canceled).

45. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
forming a length of overlapping, helically wound conductive sheath for housing
conductors, the conductive sheath having an outer surface having an appearance, and
after the forming, applying a coating to the outer surface of the sheath, the coating
having an appearance different from the appearance of the outer surface of the sheath.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 in which the coating is
continuous along at least a portion of the sheath.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 in which the coating is
continuous around the circumference of the sheath.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 in which the coating permits
electrical conductivity between successive windings of the sheath.

49-51 (Canceled).

52. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
forming a length of continuous conductive tubular sheath for housing conductors, the
conductive sheath having an outer surface having an appearance, and
after the forming, applying a coating to the outer surface of the sheath, the coating having
an appearance different from the appearance of the outer surface of the sheath.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 in which the coating is continuous
along at least a portion of the sheath.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53 in which the coating is continuous around the circumference of the sheath.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 in which the coating permits electrical conductivity.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 in which the outer surface of the sheath is provided with alternating crowns and valleys along the length of the sheath.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 in which the crowns and valleys form a helical configuration on the outer surface of the sheath.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 in which the outer surface of the sheath is smooth along the length of the sheath.

59. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
applying a coating to ~~the~~ an outer surface of a helically wound conductive sheath for housing conductors, the conductive sheath ~~having an~~ outer surface having an appearance, the coating having an appearance different from the appearance of the outer surface of the sheath, no further processing being performed that would cover the applied coating.

60. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
applying a coating to a conductive strip of material, convoluting the strip of material to form a finished product in the form of a helically wound conductive sheath for housing conductors, the conductive sheath having an outer surface having an appearance, the coating being born on the outer surface of the sheath and having an appearance different from the appearance of the outer surface of the sheath.